

Imagine

A Future Full of Opportunity

Grand Opening

National Federation of the Blind
Research and Training Institute
January 30, 2004, 5:30 p.m.

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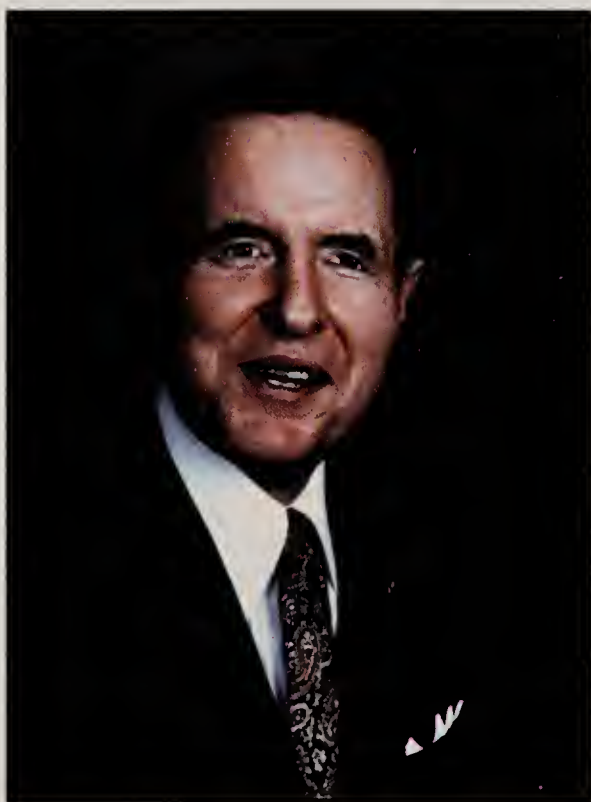
DEAR FRIENDS,



Today we open the National Federation of the Blind Research and Training Institute, the tangible representation of the faith that we have in the future for the blind. In this Institute we are absolutely certain that the dreams we have for a bright tomorrow will be fulfilled. We who are blind, along with our friends and colleagues, will explore unknown territory and develop new forms of communication. We will create opportunity for the blind of this generation and for the children that come after us. We have built on the dreams of our predecessors, and we know that they are proud of what we accomplish this day. We thank all who have participated in this tremendous effort, and we promise that what we begin today with such anticipation is but the first step in bringing true independence to the blind of the nation and the world. With unfaltering faith, with unquenchable determination, we look to tomorrow with joy!

Marc Maurer

Marc Maurer, President
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



"No one can give us our freedom. That we must take for ourselves every day or not have it at all."

— Dr. Kenneth Jernigan

MISSION

The National Federation of the Blind Research and Training Institute leads the quest to understand the real problems of blindness and to develop innovative education, technologies, products, and services that help the world's blind achieve independence.

PRIMARY INITIATIVES

- Research, develop, and support the commercialization of technologies for meeting the needs of the blind as articulated by the world's blind population.
- Develop innovative training methods and education for the entire blind population with special emphasis on underserved populations, e.g., blind seniors and blind children.
- Improve nonvisual access to and use of information through innovative technologies and Braille education.
- Evaluate, develop, and implement programs to increase employment opportunities for the blind.

Program

Master of Ceremonies, Donna Hamilton, WBAL-TV 11 News

Introduction of Honored Guests

Paul S. Sarbanes, United States Senate

Benjamin L. Cardin, United States Congress

Sean O'Keefe, NASA Administrator

Melanie Sabelhaus and Bill Struever

Event Co-Chairmen

Martin O'Malley

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Twelve-year-old blind youth from Maryland

Euclid Herie

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World Blind Union

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Executive Director

National Federation of the Blind Research and Training Institute

Marc Maurer

President

National Federation of the Blind

Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.

Governor

State of Maryland

Grand Opening Honorary Chairman

Ribbon Cutting

Entertainment

R & B All-Star Review

Featuring: Ali Ollie Woodson of the Temptations, the Winstons Orchestra, the Drifters, the Platters, and Major Harris, formerly of the Delfonics, with Pat Palmer and Johnney Smalls

Grand Opening Celebration

National Federation of the Blind Research and Training Institute



Honorary Chairman
Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.

Co-chairmen Melanie Sabelhaus, community leader and philanthropist, and Bill Struever, CEO, Struever Bros. Eccles & Rouse, Inc., join with NFB members, local community and business leaders, government officials, and others to congratulate the NFB at the official opening of the National Federation of the Blind Research and Training Institute.



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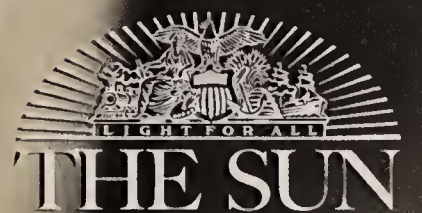


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ALVA Access Group
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and President Marc Maurer
for making the
National Federation of the Blind
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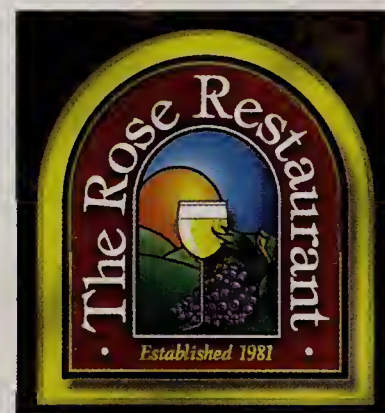
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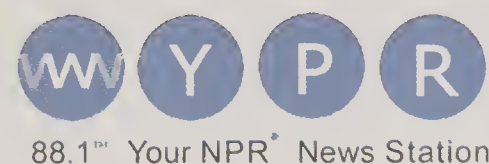
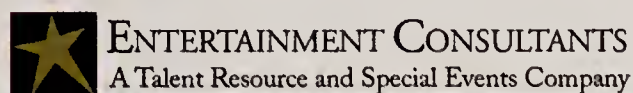


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We have dreamed
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We have built
Now we devote ourselves
to a future full of

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